

original it should prove a valuable clinical guide to students, internes and the profession generally.

C. J. TIDMARSH

**Text-Book of Bacteriology.** Hans Zinsser, M.D., and E. E. Tyzzer, A.M., M.D. Sixth edition. 1053 pages, 181 illustrations. D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1927.

The sixth edition of this standard text-book is dedicated to the memory of Professor P. H. Hiss, who was associated with Professor Zinsser in the preparation of previous issues.

The new volume is larger than its predecessors, and the subject matter has been extended to include practically every topic connected with medical bacteriology. The object of the authors has been to develop a "Manual of Infectious Diseases" rather than an academic treatise on the biology of bacteria. They have not hesitated to discuss at length problems of diagnosis, specific therapy and prevention. Hence the work includes not only the detailed biological characteristics of those micro-organisms which are pathogenic in man and animals, but it also sets forth the established facts regarding their actions and interactions with the living organism, as well as information regarding their cycles of growth and life, so important in the prevention of the spread of disease.

Although the book continues to draw away from pure botanical bacteriology, it remains an excellent guide for the practical bacteriologist. Adequate technical details are given for all the common disease-producing germs, and references to the sources of special information are conveniently placed in the text. One chapter is devoted to a concise exposition of modern ideas upon infection and immunity. This topic is discussed at length and with a tone of authority. Details of therapy by vaccine, serum and protein (specific and non-specific) are given, followed by a discussion of the phenomena of hypersusceptibility.

Of general interest are the new sections upon the bacteriology of scarlet fever, and whooping cough, and further details regarding bacteriophages and pathogenic fungi. Students of public health will find a large part of the work concerned directly or indirectly with this important specialty.

Professor E. E. Tyzzer contributes the chapter upon those parasitic protozoa which cause diseases in man, with remarks upon their biology, and methods of detection and identification.

In spite of the many additions the book is kept a convenient size by the avoidance of detail, frequent references being given for original articles. The historical method is used where possible, creating interest in subject matter, which sometimes tends to become arid, and reciting many stimulating stories of effort, failure or progress in the science of infectious diseases.

R. R. FITZGERALD

**Mother and Unborn Child.** Samuel Raynor Meaker. 198 pages, 22 illustrations. Price \$2.50. Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1927.

This is a well-written, carefully indexed book of something over two hundred pages, which is printed on rather cheap paper. The teaching is, on the whole, sound; and expressed in simple terms.

The book first deals with the anatomy and physiology of the female pelvis, the text being clarified by illustrations. Then the development of the embryo, the signs and symptoms of pregnancy, and the hygiene of pregnancy are discussed. The fallacy of many of the old tales such as maternal impressions, is pointed out. Some of the discomforts of pregnancy, as vomiting, flatulence, constipation, etc., are enumerated by the author, and their significance and treatment pointed out. The seventh chapter closes with a most concise

yet complete list of rules for expectant mothers. The last quarter of the book deals with labour, the preparations necessary, the care of the new-born child and of the mother.

The book is written in fairly simple terms for the use of mothers who wish to understand the processes of pregnancy. In recommending the book to patients, one would have to discriminate, for some would be unnecessarily alarmed by reading the chapter on labour, while others would weary over the anatomy and physiology and not read further.

ELEANOR PERCIVAL

**The Inflammatory and Toxic Diseases of Bone.** R. Lawford Knaggs, M.C., F.R.C.S. 416 pages, 196 illustrations. Price 20/- net. John Wright & Sons, Bristol. The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Toronto, 1926.

A book maintaining the best traditions of the English school of surgical teaching; an erudite book; one which will elicit the gratitude of all interested in the subject, for it throws a welcome light into a part of surgery too long obscure.

The book bears abundant evidence on page after page of the care with which the writer has accomplished his work. The references to the works of others are well and carefully chosen. The reader has the best of them pointed out to him, and the error of their useless multiplication is avoided.

Some museum specimens are illustrated; many are described in detail macroscopic and microscopic; all of them are referred to by the numbers they bear in the catalogues of their respective museums. The Royal College of Surgeons of England naturally furnishes the bulk of these specimens, but there are many from the museums of hospitals and medical schools all over England.

Your reviewer feels that this book does fill a long-felt want. The subject is one about which too much uncertainty exists in the minds of students and practitioners. The book collates the knowledge available at present on the subject, and simplifies the whole so that the student will find many of his difficulties and perplexities cleared away as he reads.

The commoner forms of inflammation of bone are well described with numerous excellent illustrations from specimens and clinical cases. It is however with the less common affections that the book deals so admirably and usefully. Thus Paget's quiet necrosis, pseudocoaxalgia and tarsal scaphoiditis are outlined simply and clearly, and their inter-relation traced. Osteo-arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis are differentiated, but the description of the latter seems inadequate and unsatisfactory even in the present nebulous state of our knowledge of the condition. There is a very thorough and valuable chapter on spondylitis deformans.

The most interesting and striking part of the book, however, concerns itself with osteitis fibrosa, osteitis deformans, and osteomalacia. Here the connection traced between the first two diseases attracts attention at once; but when the author goes on to call osteomalacia a third type of expression of the same disease which is manifested in osteitis fibrosa and osteitis deformans, then the reader may be surprised. Nevertheless the argument is well supported by histological evidence, and is put forward in a manner which commands respect and admiration.

The obscure series of diseases hidden under the term leontiasis ossea are classified into two main groups, and the clinical types made clear even if their etiology be left wrapped in mystery.

The author must be congratulated on the production of a volume which will make easier the hard path of the senior student, and will be essential in his preparation for higher examinations. The book moreover, deserves to find an honourable place in the library of every surgeon.

W. E. M. MITCHELL